

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
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Tsunehisa KIMURA et al ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
Filed: August 22, 2001 )  
)  
For: METHOD FOR SEPARATION OF )  
PLASTIC MIXTURES BASED ON )  
MAGNETO-ARCHIMEDES )  
LEVITATION )  
)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, kindly enter the following amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly replace claims 3 and 4, and add new claims 6-8, as follows.

3. (Amended) A method claimed in claim 2, wherein an aqueous solution of paramagnetic inorganic salt is used as the suspending liquid.

4. (Amended) A method claimed in claim 2, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.

6. (New) A method claimed in claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of paramagnetic inorganic salt is used as the suspending liquid.
7. (New) A method claimed in claim 6, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.
8. (New) A method claimed in claim 1, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.

**REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated from the original claims and new dependent claims 6-8 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Robert G. Mukai  
Robert G. Mukai  
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: August 22, 2001

**Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 22, 2001**

**Marked-up Claims 3-4**

3. (Amended) A method claimed in claim [1 or] 2, wherein an aqueous solution of paramagnetic inorganic salt is used as the suspending liquid.
4. (Amended) A method claimed in claim [1 or] 2, wherein the separation is continuously carried out by circulating the suspending liquid.